

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05036 290918Z

21

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 /027 W

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R 290816Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4263

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5036

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR ET US

SUBJ: TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR KAGNEW BASE HOSPITAL

REF: STATE 089717

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 25 URGED THAT USG TRY TO FIND SOME SIMPLE WAY OF AGREEING TO ETHIOPIAN ARMY MANAGEMENT AND USE OF KAGNEW HOSPITAL. HE HAD HEARD THAT AID WAS LOOKING INTO LEGAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN US LAW OR REGULATION BECAUSE HOSPITAL, ORIGINALLY DECLARED EXCESS AND TURNED OVER BY AID TO ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH, IS NOW UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF MILITARY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND, AND IN FACT WOULD MISUNDERSTAND, ANY REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER PAPERWORK CONCERNING HOSPITAL. HE SAID CANDIDLY "ALL MILITARY GOVERNMENTS ARE ALIKE -- IN SOMALIA (WHERE HE WAS AMBASSADOR), IN ALGERIA, AND ELSEWHERE -- BELIEVING THAT ONCE SOMETHING IS TURNED OVER THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER NEED FOR OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." HE WARNED THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD ADD TO EXISTING MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN PMAC AND USG.

2. COMMENT: SINCE US COUNTERPROPOSAL OF TRANSFER DOCUMENT NO LONGER STIPULATES THAT KAGNEW HOSPITAL BE TURNED OVER TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TRANSFER OF THE BUILDING ITSELF SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, CONCERNS MOVEABLE PROPERTIES IN THE HOSPITAL DISCUSSED IN ADDIS ABABA 4472 AND REFTEL.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: BECAUSE WE VALUE THE MOD'S WARNING AND
ADVICE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THOSE OF OTHER EPMG
OFFICIALS, REQUEST DEPT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SEE
IF SIMPLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF MOVEABLES CAN BE FOUND
THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE ANY FURTHER PAPERWORK IN WHICH EPMG
WOULD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE.
HUMMEL

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